

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 GSA-02 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05

SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02

OMB-01 DOE-15 IO-13 /148 W

-----121824 051209Z /15

P 051145Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 196

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 2728

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, ITC, BL

SUBJ: ITC APRIL MEETING: REPORTING OF US POSITION

REF: STATE 84659

1. THE EMBASSY HAS DECIDED NOT TO ADVISE THE GOB OF THE USG
DECISION TO SEEK A DEFERRAL OF THE ITC BUFFER STOCK PRICE
RANGE ISSUE AND ITS DECISION TO POOSE AN INCREASE IN THE
RANGE IF IT IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE COUNCIL. THE US IMAGE
RECENTLY SUFFERED A SERIOUS BLOW WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE
CARTER ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT FOR THE DECONCINI BILL TO
AUTHORIZE THE GSA TO DISPOSE OF 45,000 LT OF TIN.

2. BOLIVIA IS IN THE MIDST OF A MEETING OF MILITARY COMMANDERS
WHICH WILL DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO GO FORWARD WITH NATIONAL
ELECTIONS PLANNED FOR JULY 1978. THE USG POLICY IS TO SUPPORT
STRONGLY BOLIVIAN ELECTIONS IN JULY AND WE HAVE PUBLICLY
STATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL AND POLICITCAL
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SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT HERE. THE BOLIVIAN MILITARY
ARE VERY CONCERNED THAT SUCH A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT WILL
NOT SURVIVE THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WHICH ARE BUILDING UP.
A US POSITION TO OPPOSE ON BUFFER STOCK LEVELS AT THE APRIL
MEETING WILL BE RECEIVED HERE IN THE SAME VEIN AS THE
ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE USG PLAN TO SELL TIN UNDER THE DECONCINI
BILL, I.E., THAT THE USG SUPPORTS DEMOCRATIZATION FOR BOLIVIA

VERBALLY, BUT TAKES ECONOMIC ACTIONS DETRIMENTAL TO THE PROCESS.

3. WE RELUCTANTLY ACCEPT THE ARGUMENT CONTAINED IN REFTEL, BUT AT THE SAME TIME WE FEEL THAT WHILE WE ARE ACTIVELY TRYING TO ENCOURAGE DEMOCRACY IN BOLIVIA TIN HAS BECOME AN ISSUE WHICH DOGS OUR EFFORTS. THE GOB WILL SURELY LEARN OF THE USG POSITION AT THE APRIL 5 MEETING OF TIN PRODUCERS IN JAKARTA. WE HOPE THE WORD SEEPS BACK TO LA PAZ AFTER THE MILITARY MEETING IS OVER LATER THIS WEEK. OTHERWISE IT MIGHT BE USED AS FURTHER JUSTIFICATION TO POSTPONE ELECTIONS.

4. AFTER THE GOB LEARNS OF THE US DECISION THE EMBASSY WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH KEY OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS US POLICY AND LEARN OF THE GOB REACTION, WHICH WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE NEGATIVE. WE INTEND TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN APRIL AND JULY ON ALL PHASES OF THE TIN ISSUE AS OFFERED IN REFTEL.

5. EMBASSY REQUESTS GUIDANCE ON WHETHER OR NOT THERE WILL BE FORMAL CONSULTATION ON GSA SALES PROGRAM AT THE APRIL ITC MEETING. WOULD CONSULTATIONS ALSO BE POSTPONED UNTIL THE JULY MEETING? IF CONSULTATIONS TAKE PLACE NOW, WILL THEY BE BASED ON A THEORETICAL GSA SALES PROGRAM PENDING A PRESUMED CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION?

BOEKER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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